

PEPE FIELD

NEW JERSEY

EPA ID# NJD980529598



EPA REGION 2
CONGRESSIONAL DIST. 11
Morris County
Town of Boonton

Site Description

Pepe Field was an inactive recreational facility that covered approximately 3 acres in a residential area. The site was used by E.F. Drew Co. as a landfill from the 1920s until 1950. The company disposed of unknown quantities of processing waste from the manufacture of edible oils, and cleaning and soap products for household and industrial use. From 1950 until the mid-1960s, the site remained an open, unused area until the Town of Boonton purchased the property. During the mid-1960s, the Town covered the site with soil in preparation for construction of the recreational facility. This facility included tennis courts, a baseball field, a playground area, and a refreshment stand. However, because of the biological decay of waste material beneath the field, the area was subjected to strong hydrogen sulfide odors. In 1969, the Town implemented an odor abatement plan for the site, which consists of a 14-foot gravel curtain drain extending 150 feet along one side of the field, a sump for leachate collection, and leachate treatment with hydrogen peroxide. The pump house discharges into a culvert that ultimately discharges into the Rockaway River. The recreation field was closed for many years until the cleanup and restoration work was completed in November 2000.

Site Responsibility: This site is being addressed through Federal actions.

NPL LISTING HISTORY

Proposed Date: 12/01/82

Final Date: 09/01/83

Threats and Contaminants

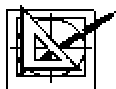


High levels of hydrogen sulfide gas were detected in the waste.

Cleanup Approach

The site was addressed in a single long-term remedial phase focusing on remediation of the entire site.

Response Action Status



Entire Site: Under a cooperative agreement with EPA, the State began a Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (RI/FS) of the Pepe Field site in 1985, and completed it in 1989. Based on the RI/FS, a Record of Decision was signed in 1989 which selected a containment remedy for the site. The remedy included maintaining a site cover; installing a landfill gas collection and treatment system; upgrading and maintaining a leachate collection and treatment system; and monitoring of the groundwater. Design of the remedy began in 1991, under State direction. In late 1991, the State requested that EPA take the lead for site activities. Design investigations performed by EPA included studying neighboring properties, extensive air sampling, and bench-scale waste stabilization studies. The information obtained from this work enabled EPA to reevaluate the excavation and off-site disposal alternative as compared to the selected remedy which relied on containment of the waste materials.

On July 25, 1997, EPA revised its cleanup plan for the Pepe Field site with the issuance of an Explanation of Significant Differences (ESD). The revised remedy outlined in the ESD calls for the Pepe Field waste to be stabilized prior to excavation. Following its removal, the waste will be loaded onto trucks and transported off-site for disposal. The field will then be restored as a recreational facility.

Following the completion of the necessary design documents, EPA Administrator Carol Browner visited the Pepe Field site on February 20, 1998 and announced that \$10 million would be made available for the cleanup. EPA subsequently selected a contractor to perform the remedial work at Pepe Field. EPA also selected the Philadelphia District of the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers to oversee the on-site work and manage the remedial contractor.

The cleanup work for the field was awarded in two phases. Phase I, which was completed in the fall of 1998, included the following activities;

- Mobilization to the site and providing site security,
- Installation of an extensive air monitoring network to measure and report the level of hydrogen sulfide (H₂S) at the perimeter of the field,
- Removal of above-ground items on the field, and

- Performance of a demonstration test to confirm the effectiveness of the stabilization technology.

The Phase II remedial work, which is now complete, included the following activities;

- S Stabilization and excavation of approximately 50,000 cubic yards of waste material. Treatment of the waste material is needed to reduce the emission of H₂S so that it may be safely excavated and transported to an off-site disposal facility,
- S Pumping and pre-treatment of leachate before discharge to the Rockaway Valley Regional Sewerage Authority, and
- S Backfilling of the waste area with clean soil and topsoil.

In addition, the Phase II work included restoration of the park. The major components of the new park are: a regulation little league field, walking path, playground, basketball court, gazebo, flag pole area and concession stand. The park restoration also includes new fencing, sidewalks and retaining walls. Congressman Rodney Frelinghuysen and Administrator Carol Browner announced the reopening of the park in November 2000. In 2002, all restoration work has been completed.

EPA completed the transfer of ownership of a residential property adjacent to the site from the Federal government to the Town of Boonton for their use in conjunction with the park. Finally, in July 2003, EPA formally deleted the site from the National Priorities List.